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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable ROLAND W. BURRIS, a Senator from the State of Illinois.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, whose power is unsearchable and whose judgments are great, quiet our hearts in Your presence. Teach us to be still and know that You are God.

Bless our Senators. Give them hearts to listen, teachable minds to learn, and humble wills to obey. Let the light of Your purposes guide them from bewilderment to trust in Your infinite wisdom and resources. Lord, use them to bring about an ordered society of nations that gives substance to humanity's dream of unity and peace. Watch over the entire Senate family and surround us with Your protections.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable ROLAND W. BURRIS led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 28, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ROLAND W. BURRIS, a

Senator from the State of Illinois, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BURRIS thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, there will be a period of morning business for 1 hour. Senators during that time will be allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes. The majority will control the first 30 minutes and the Republicans will control the second 30 minutes. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the Energy and Water appropriations bill. The Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. today to accommodate the weekly caucus luncheons.

Mr. President, I have spoken with the Republican leader at some length over the last few days, and we all know what we have to do before we leave here. We are going to finish the Energy and Water appropriations bill, the Agriculture appropriations bill. We have the Travel Promotion Act we have to do. We have to complete the Sotomayor nomination.

We have a package of extenders, for lack of a better description, the House is going to send us. They are going to likely be out next week but not for certain. In that package they are sending us, there will be an extension of the highway bill. I think all of this goes until about December. The Postal Service, we have to help them. We have to do something with FHA. We have to do something with unemployment compensation. That is all in one thing they

are going to send us for short extensions. I have not seen what they are going to put together; therefore, I could not share it with my esteemed colleague. But as soon as we have some information, we will make sure the committees of jurisdiction on both sides have knowledge of what that is. But we have to complete that work before we leave here, and I hope we can do it sooner rather than later. I hope we do not have to work this weekend.

We have a finite number of things we need to do before we proceed on to the summer recess. This is something Members look forward to. I personally have a very busy schedule, as I am sure most Members do. But once a year, I get together with my family. I am looking forward to that. It is for 7 or 8 days. But to justify that, we have a lot of work to do. If we look back in the years past, Congress adjourned by this time in years past. They were through for the year. We are, unfortunately, not able to do that as much as we would like that. There is a lot of work we could do at home but we cannot because this is where business is when we are in session. So we are going to continue to work through these things and do it as quickly and as efficiently as possible.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, fixing our broken health care system after decades of inaction is no small task. With such an effort comes no shortage of strong convictions, diverse ideas, rigorous analysis, and constructive criticism. But as the plans, proposals, and policies evolve, our principles remain constant. Although we navigate a sea of choices, we know where we will land. First, we will bring security and stability back to health care. Second, we will not add a penny to the considerable national deficit that has ballooned over the past 8 years. This work we are doing on health care is budget neutral.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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